

# Implementing the Common Core Standards (ICCS) Issue 30 ● November 1, 2012

Dear colleagues,

We are pleased to announce that we will be hosting a webinar with 2012 National Teacher of the Year Rebecca Mieliwocki on the recently released Partnership for Readiness for College and Career (PARCC) and Smarter Balanced sample assessment items in English language arts. Ms. Mieliwocki, a seventh grade English teacher, will offer her reactions and guidance to fellow teachers on what the new assessment items can illustrate about the Common Core State Standards and accompanying assessments that their students will be experiencing soon. After discussing select sample assessment items from PARCC and Smarter Balanced, Ms. Mieliwocki will offer suggestions for teachers - individually and in collaborative conversations with their peers - on how they can reflect on these new expectations for students and the subsequent implications for their teaching practice and for state education agency staff regarding their role in supporting educators to have these rich discussions. The webinar will be held on Friday, November 9 from 2-3 p.m. ET. An analogous webinar focused on mathematics will also occur at a later date.

Please do not hesitate to <u>contact Katey McGettrick</u> with questions, ideas for future newsletters, and success stories from your agencies and classrooms.

Thank you,

CCSSO's Common Core Implementation Team - Carrie Heath Phillips, Margaret Millar, Renata Lewis, and Katey McGettrick

#### Featured in this newsletter:

- ASCD releases new report on Common Core implementation
- International Reading Association report provides literacy implementation guidance for the ELA Common Core
- Aspen Institute releases primer on close reading of text

Upcoming events

#### **ASCD** releases new Common Core report

ASCD has released a new report titled Fulfilling the Promise of the Common Core State Standards: Moving from Adoption to Implementation to Sustainability illuminating activities educators and policymakers at all levels can undertake to successfully implement the Common Core State Standards across the nation. The recommendations included in Fulfilling the Promise of the Common Core State Standards are derived from data gathered from field work, surveys, and educator summits ASCD hosted along with CCSSO in Arkansas, Colorado, North Carolina, and Utah.

Based on the data gathered, ASCD has made a number of key recommendations to education leaders that will help them successfully implement the Common Core State Standards in their school systems. Among the recommendations are to:

- Transform principals into instructional leaders;
- Listen to educators about their professional learning needs;
- Adopt technology for teaching and learning;
- Align initiatives into comprehensive reforms;
- Make sure educators deeply understand the standards and the key instructional shifts they require;
   and
- Vet instructional resources for quality and alignment with the standards.

## International Reading Association issues statement providing literacy implementation guidance for the ELA Common Core

<u>In a recently released statement</u>, the International Reading Association, offers guidance on seven issues that have proven challenging to teachers, principals, administrators, and others who are charged with implementing the Common Core State Standards (CCSS) for English Language Arts. The discussion around each of the seven areas – the use of challenging texts, the foundational skills in the standards, comprehension, vocabulary, writing, disciplinary literacy, and diverse learners – is accompanied by recommendations on how to implement these aspects of the standards.

### Aspen Institute releases primer on close reading of text

Last month, the Aspen Institute released "Implementing the Common Core State Standards: A Primer on "Close Reading of Text". To assist teachers in understanding and employing Close Reading, the primer addresses three key questions:

- What is Close Reading of text, and what are its essential attributes? How, and for what purposes, should teachers employ this strategy?
- What is the role of background knowledge in the development of reading comprehension, and when should teachers activate and/or provide background knowledge?
- What should teachers and district leaders consider about Close Reading as they prepare to implement

### **Upcoming Events**

#### CCSSO Webinar: English Language Learners and Science: Using the ELPD Framework

The English Language Proficiency Development (ELPD) Framework outlines the underlying English language practices found in the CCSS and the NGSS, communicates to ELL stakeholders the language that all ELLs must acquire in order to successfully engage the CCSS and NGSS, and specifies a procedure by which to evaluate the degree of alignment present between the Framework and ELP standards under consideration or adopted by states.

To assist states and interested stakeholders in using the framework, CCSSO will be hosting a four-part webinar series on this publication. This webinar on November 2 at 1 pm ET will focus on the key practices in forthcoming Next Generation Science standards and the features of discipline-specific language used by teachers and students while engaged in the learning of these key practices.

## CCSSO and ASCD to co-host November 7 webinar on EduCore<sup>™</sup>

CCSSO and ASCD invite you to attend a webinar on Wednesday, November 7, at 2 p.m. ET to learn about ASCD's new, free digital tool EduCore™ for educators implementing the Common Core State Standards in both mathematics and literacy. The EduCore tool is a repository of evidence-based strategies, videos, and supporting documents that help middle and high school educators transition to the Common Core State Standards. Through a simple registration process, educators can access additional EduCore features, such as the ability to save searches, organize tools, and annotate resources. In this webinar, ASCD's Sherida Britt will highlight secondary instructional resources on the EduCore™ platform and offer common sense tips that schools can use to create job-embedded opportunities that encourage teachers to use the instructional resources. By the end of this webinar, participants will:

- understand the features of the EduCore platform and other free online resources that feature research based support for implementing the Common Core; and
- determine ways schools can create job-embedded opportunities for professional learning communities.

#### Register today for this event.

# The State Role in Selecting and Recommending Aligned Instructional Materials (November 29-30, 2012; Stamford Marriott Hotel, Stamford, CT)

CCSSO, Student Achievement Partners (SAP) and the GE Foundation invite all state education agencies to send two individuals responsible for curriculum and instructional materials adoption and recommendation at the state level to attend a hands-on workshop and conversation with leaders from SAP, CCSSO, and other national experts to discuss use of tools like the Publishers' Criteria for English Language Arts and Mathematics. Please note that this meeting will be freely available to *all* states, regardless of ICCS membership. There are currently 35 states registered. If you have questions about registration, please email Margaret Millar, <a href="margaretm@ccsso.org">margaretm@ccsso.org</a>.

CCSSO's SCEE and ICCS consortia and Learning Forward Present: Leveraging Professional Learning to Increase Principal Effectiveness in Implementing the Common Core and Teacher Evaluation

## (Rescheduled Date: TBD; Renaissance Harborplace Hotel, Baltimore, MD)

Please note that this meeting for SCEE and ICCS state education agency participants, scheduled to take place on November 1-2, 2012, has been postponed and will be rescheduled when an available date can be identified. CCSSO is currently looking at dates in January 2013 and will distribute updated information about the meeting as soon as it is available.